Agitation for construction of over bridge at Similia

†3497. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agitation demanding erection of a flyover at Similia level-crossing under Dhenkanal district of Orissa under Eastern Coastal Railways was stayed recently;

(b) if so, the status of assurance given by the Railways thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal for construction of this flyover; and

(d) if so, the time by when the construction of the flyover should be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was assured that work will be taken up as soon as General Arrangement Drawing is received from State Government duly approved.

(c) Yes, Sir. Work of Road over bridge was sanctioned during Works Programme of 2005-06.

(d) Work of bridge proper across tracks is to be executed by Railway and approaches by State Government Railway will complete its portion of work before or simultaneously with the work of approaches which can be taken up after State Government approves the General Arrangement Drawing.

Gauge conversion

†3498. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail route in the country where work related to gauge conversion is yet to be carried out;

(b) the total length of rail route converted into broad gauge during last five year plan and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the target set for gauge conversion during current five year plan, State-wise;

(d) the details of sections proposed to be completed by the end of current financial year; and

(e) whether there is possibility of any consideration to get more funds in order to speed up this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01.04.2007, Indian Railway had 10621 Km. Meter Gauge (MG) and 3013 Km Narrow Gauge (NG) lines. Further, about 1549 Km has been completed in 2007-08.

(b) 4289 Km of gauge conversion was completed during Tenth Plan Period and the expenditure incurred was about Rs. 6525 Crore. State-wise figures of expenditure are not maintained.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to complete 10,000 Km of gauge conversion during the XI Five Year Plan period subject to availability of funds. The details of gauge conversion projects targeted for completion during 2008-09 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.